



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/710,811	08/04/2004	David J. Lovell	00124-01075-US	4810
23416 7590 10/01/2007 CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP P O BOX 2207 WILMINGTON, DE 19899			EXAMINER COONEY, JOHN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1711	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/01/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/710,811	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LOVELL ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> John m. Cooney	<b>Art Unit</b> 1711	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-19 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12, 13 and 15-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11, 14 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some    \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9-25-07 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 10 and 11 recite the limitation "thermoforming the laminate" in the third line of each claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

There is no thermoforming operation in the process of claim 1.

Additionally, and particularly in claim 11, it can not be argued that the claim is merely reciting the capabilities of the polyurethane foam of claim 1 because the claim as it currently stands appears to be positively referring to a thermoforming operation.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 14, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blackwell et al.(5,804,113).

Blackwell et al. discloses preparations of polyurethane foams materials having densities as claimed prepared by mixing and reacting polyols meeting those as claimed by applicants, isocyanates including TDI and MDI in amounts as required by applicants' claims, water as a blowing agent, catalysts, surfactants, fire retardants, and other additives under controlled and reduced pressures as claimed by applicants and wherein the reactive mixtures are placed against barrier films during formation (see column 4 line 3 – column 7 line 28, and the examples, as well as, the entire document). The specific film materials of applicants' claims, though not particularly identified, are readily envisaged by Blackwell et al.'s disclosure of films for their foam forming materials to be applied to.

Applicants' arguments have been considered. However, rejection is maintained for the reasons set forth above.

The following previous arguments are maintained:  
The language of applicants' claims identifying the materials formed as being

Art Unit: 1711

sound insulative laminates does not distinguish the processes and products as defined by the claims from the products and processes disclosed by Blackwell et al. in the patentable sense. Additionally, the barrier layers of applicants' claims are not distinguished in structure or form from the bottom paper or films disclosed by Blackwell et al. As to claim 21, the adhesive as defined by this claim without particular definition is sufficiently met by the implicit adhesive properties possessed by the foam material.

Applicants' latest arguments have been considered. However, it is maintained that applicants' specific film materials are readily envisaged by Blackwell et al.'s disclosure of films used in their operations. Distinction based the intended use as sound insulating laminates is not seen, and a degree of sound insulation is inherent to solid formed articles such as those of Blackwell et al. Blackwell et al. is held to identify with joining their forming polyurethane foam with their film layer to the degree required by the claims. Applicants' recitation of the term "barrier layer" in the claims does not carry any implied degree of sound insulative value as suggested in applicants' reply.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niederoest et al.(6,372,812).

Niederoest et al. discloses preparations of polyurethane foams materials

Art Unit: 1711

prepared by mixing and reacting on a conveyor belt polyols meeting those as claimed by applicants, isocyanates including TDI and MDI in amounts as required by applicants' claims, water as a blowing agent, catalysts, surfactants, fire retardants, and other additives under controlled and reduced pressures as claimed by applicants and wherein the reactive mixtures are placed against barrier films during formation (see the entire document, as well as, the comparative examples).

Niederoest et al. differs from applicants' claims in that densities meeting those of applicants' claims are not required. However, Niederoest et al. discloses control of these values and the blowing agent amounts dictating these values for the purpose of providing acceptably formed articles, and a prima facie case of obviousness has been held to exist where the proportions of a reference are close enough to those of the claims to lead to an expectation of similar properties. *Titanium Metals v Banner* 227 USPQ 773. **(see also MPEP 2144.05 I)**. Accordingly, given that the upper value for applicants' claims are so close to the lower value of Niederoest et al., it is held that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have operated at or close to the disclosed density values in the operations of Niederoest et al. for the purpose of achieving acceptable results in order to arrive at the products and processes of applicants' claims with the expectation of success in the absence of a showing of new or unexpected results.

Applicants' arguments have been considered. However, rejection is maintained for the reasons set forth above.

Art Unit: 1711

Applicants' arguments have been considered. However, rejection is maintained for the reasons set forth above.

The following previous arguments are maintained:

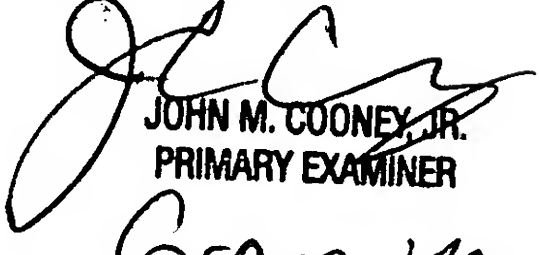
The language of applicants' claims identifying the materials formed as being sound insulative laminates does not distinguish the processes and products as defined by the claims from the products and processes disclosed by Niederoest et al. in the patentable sense. Additionally, the barrier layers of applicants' claims are not distinguished in structure or form from the conveyor material disclosed by Niederoest et al. Additionally, applicants' claims do not require that the products be thermoformed or that thermoforming operations be performed. Rather, applicants' claims are directed towards thermoformable/pre-thermoformed articles and methods for making the same. As to claim 21, the adhesive as defined by this claim without particular definition is sufficiently met by the implicit adhesive properties possessed by the foam material.

Applicants' latest arguments have been considered. However, it is maintained that applicants' specific film materials are readily envisaged by Niederoest et al.'s disclosed conveying materials. While applied to the conveyor belt they are joined to the degree as claimed by applicants, and applicants' claimed barrier layer materials are all materials reasonably envisioned for performing the function of a conveying material with the expectation of success. Distinction based the intended use as sound insulating laminates is not seen. Applicants' recitation of the term "barrier layer" in the claims does not carry any implied degree of sound insulative value as suggested in applicants' reply.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Cooney whose telephone number is 571-272-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck, can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
JOHN M. COONEY, JR.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
Group 1700